

Planner's Update

News that planners can use

November 2005

Issue Four

Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development

Growth Management Services

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Greetings!

During this busy end-of-year season, we don't always take time to look back and assess all that has been accomplished in 2005 through comprehensive planning. As cities and counties have updated their plans, they have often found that many of the goals and projects in the previous plan were fulfilled. Citizens of those communities realized the benefits of revitalized neighborhoods, improved building and streetscape design, additional infrastructure, and other advances. As your elected officials consider amendments to your city or county comprehensive plan, it's a good time to present to them and the public the goals from the previous plan that have been accomplished.

The year 2005 is the 15th anniversary of the Growth Management Act – another good time to assess the benefits that planning under the GMA has brought to Washington communities. Growth Management Services is compiling a report on the history of the GMA, including articles from many local government officials on how planning under the GMA has benefited their community. The report should be available in early 2006.

As you continue to update and implement your comprehensive plans, this issue of the Planner's Update contains important and useful information to assist. As always, please feel free to call us (360) 725-3000 if you have any questions or comments.

Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,



Leonard Bauer, Managing Director
Growth Management Services

2005-07 Competitive Grants Awarded

Growth Management Services has awarded more than \$1.266 million in competitive grants to 31 local governments across the state. Cities and counties that are not eligible for grants to update their comprehensive plans and development regulations were given the opportunity to apply

for the competitive grants. Cities and counties will use the grant funds for a wide variety of projects, including planning for neighborhood needs, improving downtowns, studying economic development options, examining shoreline programs, surveying

agricultural lands, evaluating transportation options, reviewing rural policies, and gathering information for buildable lands reports. The grants range from \$7,500 to \$100,000. A complete list of the grants awarded, by county, is attached.

Time to Submit Reports on Update Grants!

Counties and cities that were awarded CTED grants in 2005 to assist in updating their comprehensive plans and development regulations must **submit status reports by December 15, 2005**. The reports are due from all jurisdictions that received an "update grant." They are a condition of the grant contract, and we must receive the reports at CTED before we can authorize the next payment on your grant contract.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Some jurisdictions' grant contracts must be completed by December 31, 2005 – for these jurisdictions, the December 15 report will be the final report for their grants.

Reminder: Evaluate Regulations to Avoid Constitutional Takings

As cities and counties adopt amendments to development regulations, please remember that RCW 36.70A.370 requires a process for assuring that the regulations do not result in an unconstitutional taking of private property. The Washington Office of the Attorney General has completed an advisory memo that may be consulted to assist. The advisory memo is available on the CTED web site at www.cted.wa.gov/growth (click on GMA Topics, Property Rights).

Commute Trip Reduction (CTR)

The Department of Transportation's CTR Task Force is developing a proposal for reauthorization of the Task Force and state commute trip reduction requirements. The proposals would focus CTR requirements and resources into urban areas and designated urban centers. They would also reduce the size of the task force. CTED staff has been helping the task force understand how a centers-based strategy would fit with other state planning requirements and how to integrate land use and transportation demand management planning. For more information, contact Anne Fritz, Growth Management Services, at (360) 725-3064.

Growth Management Services' 2005-2007

Earlier this summer, we sent you an e-mail survey to get your opinion on what projects we should devote our energy to in the next two years. I want to thank those of you who responded to this survey. We used this information to develop our work program, which is enclosed.

Attached is a summary of our work program for the next two years. Our work is arranged into five major program areas. These program areas generally reflect GMS' statutory responsibilities. Our work program places particular emphasis on three program areas:

1. Direct assistance to local governments, assisting with their specific planning issues and concerns;
2. General guidance provided for all local governments and their citizens on current planning issues; and
3. Public outreach with information regarding growth management successes and challenges, to help develop a broader understanding of the importance of planning in our state.

During the last biennium, we sent you our work program. We are also enclosing a report of how we accomplished the work we set out to do during the last biennium.

Governor Announces Principles of Correspondence

In a September 21 press release, Governor Gregoire announced the development of a set of principles state agencies will use to guide their procedures for assisting local governments with growth management work (see press release attached). These principles were developed collaboratively between the Association of Washington Cities, the Washington Association of Counties, and eight state agencies.

CTED led the effort and facilitated the development of the principles. I would like to thank all of the local government planning directors that worked with CTED and the other state agencies to develop these principles, and look forward to an increasingly positive working relationship between local governments and all state agencies to achieve the goals of the Growth Management Act.

Other Grant Opportunities

Safe Communities Grants

The 2005 Washington State Legislature authorized \$50,000 for “one pilot project to promote the study and implementation of safe neighborhoods through community planning” (ESSB 6090). To carry out this directive, Growth Management Services is requesting competitive grant proposals for a **Safe Neighborhoods Through Community Planning** program.

The **Request for Proposal (RFP)** and the **Grant Application** are available on the CTED Growth Management Services web page at www.cted.wa.gov/growth. One application will be selected to receive \$50,000 to pilot the Safe Neighborhoods Through Community Planning program. For more details about how this pilot could benefit your community, please call Janet Rogerson at (360) 725-3047 or janetr@cted.wa.gov

Smart Growth Assistance

The American Institute of Architects (AIA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are offering several technical assistance opportunities to communities across the country. You may want to consider applying for one or more of the programs. Note that each program has a separate application that must be completed. All applications are due to the sponsoring organization on Friday, January 6, 2006. See <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/techasst.htm>. The programs are:

Smart Growth Implementation Assistance: Environmental Protection Agency.

For communities that want assistance with implementing smart growth either through policy analysis (e.g., reviewing state and local codes, school siting guidelines, transportation policies, etc.) or public participatory processes (e.g., visioning, alternatives analysis, build-out analysis, etc.). Selected communities will receive assistance in the form of a multi-day visit from a team of national experts organized by EPA and other national partners to work with local leaders. Although the assistance is free to the community, priority will be given to those places that can demonstrate commitments of local staff time, support from local businesses, and other local resources.

Eligible entities are tribal, local, regional, and state governments and nonprofit organizations that have a demonstrated partnership with a governmental entity. For more information, contact: Ilana Preuss at preuss.ilana@epa.gov or at (202) 566-2853 or Mary Kay Bailey at bailey.marykay@epa.gov or at (202) 566-2859.

Sustainable Design Assessment Teams (SDAT): American Institute of Architects

The SDAT is a community assistance program that focuses on assessing the sustainability of communities and creating a framework for becoming more sustainable at the community and regional levels. SDATs bring a team of volunteer professionals (such as architects, urban designers, planners, hydrologists, economists, attorneys, and others) to work with community decision-makers and stakeholders to help them develop a vision and framework for a sustainable future.

For 2006, the AIA will provide a grant of \$15,000 to 7 communities; communities are required to provide a \$5,000 match as well as cover any additional costs above \$20,000 that may be incurred.

Eligible entities include all communities in the United States; participation of the local government and support of the local AIA component are required.

For more information, contact: Ann Livingston, Esq., Director, AIA, Center for Communities by Design at alivingston@aia.org or (202) 626.7405 or e-mail sdatt@aia.org. See: http://www.aia.org/liv_sdatt

Smart Growth Implementation Assistance for Coastal Communities: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The National Sea Grant College Program is a network of university-based programs located throughout the coastal United States, working with communities to support strong economies and healthy coasts, via extension services and targeted research. NOAA is soliciting applications from Sea Grant Programs who partner with coastal communities that want assistance with either policy analysis (e.g., reviewing state and local codes, school siting guidelines, transportation policies, etc.), or public participatory processes (e.g., visioning, alternatives analysis, build-out analysis, etc.).

NOAA will provide up to \$17,000 in grant assistance (funding will go to the Sea Grant University partner who can choose to sub-allocate the funds) and EPA will provide up to a \$17,000 match in contract support for each project.

Eligible entities: Sea Grant Programs partnering with tribal, local, regional, or state governments, or with nonprofit organizations that have a demonstrated partnership with a governmental entity. Coastal communities wishing to partner with Sea Grant on projects under this request can refer to <http://www.nsgo.seagrant.org/other/programsdirectors.html> for contact information.

For more information contact: Amy Zimmerling, NOAA at amy.zimmerling@noaa.gov.